

Dissertation marking and feedback sheet

Programme: Erasmus Mundus MA/Mgr. in Special and Inclusive Education

Module: Dissertation - **Adolescence, Identity and Schooling, A Case Study of Three Teenage Girls from Prague**

Module code:

Student Name: Ivana Rajkovič

Student Number:

VIVA 11.12.2013

1st Marker's name: Mgr. Šárka Káňová

2nd Marker's name: Dr. Pavlína Šumníková /in italian/

Use of literature/evidence

Ivana chose a research theme relevant not only in current Czech society, but her home country (Serbia) as well. Both countries face an issue of underachievement of Roma pupils at schools. The main purpose of the thesis was to explore Roma students' identities and their perception of the future with regards to education and to identify the values they associate with the schooling process and whether it is viewed as linked with social advancement.

Ivana being very interested in this particular topic made efforts to visit and volunteer in NGOs working with disadvantaged teenagers in low-threshold facilities so she came in better contact with the target group with whom she then conducted the research.

Ivana set clear research aims, which she was able to operationalize. Explanation of the topic was justified, sufficient number of relevant scientific theories was used and critical review of the literature was made.

Ivana has used bibliography corresponds with the current state research.

The topic selected by Ivana is actual in the Czech Republic. Ivana uses the literature to build an argument and advance the field. She works with importance of ethnic identity of minority students, their schooling experiences and family environmental factors and she analyses three different psychological explanations: Bronfenbrenner's ecological systems theory (p. 8), cultural-ecological theory of John Ogbu (p. 13) and Ericson's theory (p.

15).

She shows understanding of and command over the most relevant literature about Roma minority. In the discussion, she provides adequate coverage of the literature.

Design of project- research question or hypothesis, and methodology

Ivana used a participatory research supported by a qualitative case study design in a correct and a creative way. Critical reflection on the research approach use was made. The process of the research methods identification was justified and their strengths and weaknesses addressed. Ivana was in touch with 2 facilities providing services to Roma teenagers, but the respondents for her research were due to certain circumstances recruited just from one of them. Finally there were only 3 teenage girls who themselves and their parents as well agreed with their participation in the research study. Significant commutation barriers between Ivana and Czech respondents have to be taken into consideration as well as her efforts to do all for minimizing the problems of sampling.

Generalization of the findings was not possible, nor intended. The study can however generate a valuable knowledge for politics, policy makers, researcher and the practitioners from the education and social service field.

Ivana used qualitative methods such as semi-structured interviews. She discussed why method was chosen and describes advantages and disadvantages.

Ivana works with three girls and she developed key themes:

- *Identity and sense of belonging*
- *Environmental factors*
- *The value of schooling*
- *Parental influence in schooling and*
- *Future goals and aspirations*

She collaborated with a translator for communication with them and she used audio records for further analysis.

Data analysis and Presentation

Ivana used thematic analyse in the study with the tool of open coding. The method for analyzing data from semi-structured interviews and memos from the personnel of the low-threshold facilities, data collection procedures and ethical consideration are nicely described on pages 35 – 41. Analysis is appropriate and correct.

Data were examined in order to find constructs to describe the pre-coded domains in relation to factors that the author assumed to have a specific role in creating the identity of Roma children (identity and sense of belonging, environmental factors, the value of schooling, parental influence of schooling and future goals and aspirations). Using these categories Ivana created 3 case

studies. Data presentation was well-structured.

The information gained from the questionnaire has been analyzed using thematic analysis. Ivana related the research questions (Appendix B) and the themes coming from the analysis. Data presentation is based on the citations of answers of responders with a short summary at the end of each section.

Structure, communication, and presentation

The work has a clear and cohesive structure. It is very well presented with accurate citations and bibliography. Ivana discussed strengths, weaknesses and limitations of the approach she has chosen. The interpretation of data in Conclusion is provided carefully due to low number of respondents. The author put emphases not to generalize her findings.

The work is well-written, the structure is adequate, and the author discussed strengths, weaknesses and limitations of the study. The work has five parts: Introduction, The review of literature, Research methodology, Data presentation and Discussion (identity and sense of belonging, environmental factors, the value of schooling, parental influence in schooling and future goals and aspirations of three Roma girls) and Concluding remarks.

This study focuses how three Roma interviewee-girls in the Czech Republic feel their identities and self-perception.

The themes reflect on the research questions, the units of focus created to give structure and ease recording of his observation, and the main concepts from the review of literature.

Bibliography is adequate, actual, relevant topic.

Overall comments

The theme selected is very actual and important. Ivana worked very independently and proved that she was capable of designing and conducting a research project with sufficient practical relevance as well as theoretical impact within the fields of Special and Inclusive Education Study programme. The final document is attractive in wording and appearance.

- Could you please summarize your research findings in terms of what you have learnt from conducting the qualitative research strategy? What was the most important according to you; what would you highlight?
- In case you would lead a similar research project in the future what kind of research methods would you use? Would you use the same methods? What would you suggest to do in regard with sampling?

The theme selected by Ivana is very actual and important; the work is well written with a proper use of literature and good introduction.

You have worked with Czech Roma girls; you have studied Czech school system. You compare your research topics with your experience from Serbia (p. 52).

My question is:

How way do you see for future researches?

Agreed mark : excellent